

**PRESENTATION TO MEMBERS OF UGANDA
FISHERIES AND FISH CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION ATTENDING A ONE DAY SEMINAR**

HELD AT

MUKONO DFI ON 6TH DECEMBER, 1996.

BY

**F.X.M. KIZZA,
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.**

**TOPIC: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY ROLE IN FISHERIES
REGULATIONS & CONTROL**

CONTENT LAYOUT

- * Introduction
- * Impacts of Life Styles
- * Fisheries Malpractices
- * Measures in Place
- * Community Participatory Roles
- * Conclusions

KEY MESSAGE

- * *The Fisheries Industry needs you.*
- * *Exploit, Utilise & Manage the
Fisheries Resources Responsibly.*
- * *Watch out & Prevent Occurrence of
Fisheries Malpractices.*
- * *Guarantee Food Security & Promote
Economic Development,*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Planet earth has been a habitat of mankind for millions of years. However, the struggle of mankind for his survival has transformed the climatic and environmental systems of the earth. So much that, the changes have forced mankind to change his life-style.

2. EXAMPLES OF IMPACTS OF LIFE STYLE

2.1 In Uganda, the human annual population growth rate of 3.15% is threatening fisheries food security as family planning is far fetched. The search for low capital yet gainful employment so as to raise household earnings is subjecting fishing pressure to the fisheries biodiversity to near extinction. As a result, greed for money and demand for dietary needs are a must. Inevitably, fisheries malpractices become a daily routine in a bid to hike fishing effort in excess of ideal maximum sustainable yield of our water bodies. Pre-mature fish exploitation also manifest the desperate human socio-economic budgetary deficits. Another example of this, is the on-going abuse of chemicals while fishing to kill fish en masse for profiteering. All these are tantamount to meddling with environmental systems. Worst still, our lakes, rivers and swamps have not shown any sign of expanding or increasing productivity but are instead under the yoke of compounded problems such as the infestation of water hyacinth, and global warming etc.

3. EXAMPLES OF FISHERIES MALPRACTICES

3.1 Those Attributed to Increased Fishing Effort

- 3.1.1 Unlimited entry into fishing
- 3.1.2 Unlicensed yet active fishing vessels
- 3.1.3 Inconsistent fishing gears and methods (increasing numbers, reducing mesh-sizes, active fishing methods etc.)
- 3.1.4 Enchroachment on restricted fishing grounds.
- 3.1.5 Increasing fishing hours/manpower

3.2 Immature Fish Exploitation

- 3.2.1 Use of prohibited fishing gears namely seine-nets ("Kokoota", "Birindwe", "Kiragala"); reduced sizes of meshes of gill nets e.g.. below 5" in Lakes of Edward, George and Wamala: trawl nets: "cast nets" ("tupa tupa"): "Non-Return Traps" etc.

NB: Seine nets are selected to demonstrate impact on the fishery. See Appendix A.

3.3. MISCELLANEOUS

- 3.3.1 Use of chemicals/noxious substances
- 3.3.2 Draining communal water bodies for the sake of harvesting fish
- 3.3.3 Fencing-off water for personal exclusive use.
- 3.3.4 Importation/manufacture of inconsistent fishing gears
- 3.3.5 Establishment of indiscriminate fishing villages
- 3.3.6 Increased unauthorised fish quotas; etc.

4.0 MEASURES IN PLACE

- 4.1 While it is recognised that fisheries in all water bodies should be developed in order to supplement protein requirements of the community so as to raise the per capita fish consumption; it is equally important that appropriate legislation is in place to ensure a status quo between mankind and ecosystems. In Uganda, our new constitution has committed itself to protect important natural resources including land, water, wetlands, minerals, oils, fauna and flora on behalf of the people of Uganda. Further more, the State shall have a stake in sustainable utilisation and management of the natural resources in such a way that measures to prevent or minimise damage and destruction to land, air, water resources resulting from pollution or other malpractices are instituted. The State shall also stimulate agricultural, industrial, technological and scientific development by adapting appropriate policies and enact enabling legislation. On the other hand, the constitution has charged the "Wanainchi" to take part in formulating and implementing development plans and programmes which affect them. You are essentially here just to do the needful. Through decentralisation process and through the expected Local Government Act, your endeavours and deliberations will further be catalysed into meaningful social-economic ventures. In this seminar, information, and knowledge are being imparted to you to empower you to realise long-term sustenance of the fisheries resource base; to enable you to distinguish between bad and good; and to make you leaders and managers of harnessing the resources as you undertake the task of conserving and protecting the fisheries biodiversity among your communities. So, the State and you are partners in fisheries regulation and control.

5.0 FISHERIES REGULATIONS

- 5.1 Ordinances encompassing fisheries first appeared in early 1930s. However, in 1964, the State enacted the Fish and Crocodile Act, Chapter 228, with a few amendments in 1967. Since that time, no further reviews except minor statutory notices have been seriously pursued, although drafting of

reviews is on-going and new areas are being incorporated such as quality assurance. In the new Act, the crocodiles will be deleted as they now form part of the provisions of Wildlife Authority. In a nut-shell, the "Fish and Crocodile Act" makes provisions for the control of fishing, the conservation of fish, the purchase, sale, marketing, and processing of fish and any matters connected therewith.

- 5.2 In March, 1992, the Ministry of Public Service, for the first time, distinguished the duties of the extension staff from that of law enforcement staff. The later, came under the jurisdiction of a new unit known as Fisheries Regulation and Control (FRC) of the Fisheries Department. FRC mandate is to conserve, manage effectively the optimal exploitation of the fisheries resources, utilise them sustainably and guarantee the safety and quality of the fishery products for food security and economic development through application of appropriate regulations and technology. Five Ecological Zones : L. Albert, L. Victoria, L. George/Edward, L. Kyoga and River Aswa have been identified as arrears of operation of FRC. A contingent of 35 fisheries regulation and control staff will be working therein.

6.0 EXAMPLES OF FISHERIES REGULATIONS AND CONTROL

- 6.1 **Authorised Officer:** Is any officer so authorised in writing by the Commissioner for Fisheries to carry out the statutory duties of the Fish and Crocodile Act.

6.2 **Fishing:**

- 6.2.1 It is an offence to carry out fishing without a valid Fishing Vessel Licence and such vessel before being used should be painted with a registration number. Whereas you may quite freely access entry in fishing on Lakes of Kyoga, Victoria, Albert and many other minor lakes; it may prove difficult to do so in Lakes of Edward, George and Wamala as the later are categorised as controlled lakes.
- 6.2.2 Non-Uganda Citizens require a Special Licence before taking on a Fishing Vessel Licence.
- 6.2.3. The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is empowered to make rules from time to time in respect of:-
- Size and type of nets e.g.. seine nets were prohibited under Statutory Instrument No. 10 of 1992.

- Type of licences
- Regulating and controlling fishing, marketing, purchase, sale, processing and freezing etc.
- Declare closed seasons, prohibited fishing grounds etc.

6.2.4. It is an offence to use or possess for the purpose of using any poison, noxious substances, explosives or electrical device for the capture, killing or injuring of any fish or for rendering any such fish more easily captured without written permission from the Commissioner for Fisheries (CFF).

6.2.5 It is an offence for any person to introduce into Uganda or any waters any fish not indigenous to Uganda or their eggs or transfer any fish species or their eggs from one water body to another without the consent of CFF.

6.3 Licences:

- 6.3.1 If a licence is cancelled, the grieved person may appeal to the Minister whose decision is final.
- 6.3.2 An authorised licensing officer may refuse to issue a licence if he is satisfied that the issue will not be in public interest.
- 6.3.3 All licences expire by the calendar year.
- 6.3.4 A Fishing Vessel Licence is personal to the owner and shall not be transferred.
- 6.3.5. No body shall borrow or make use of a licence issued under this Act.
- 6.3.6 Any authorised officer can demand any licence issued for examination. Any refusal is an offence.
- 6.3.7 Artisanal Fish Processing Licences have been introduced, but not as a substitute of Fishmongers Licences or Specific Licences. Also Industrial Processing Licences have derived certain powers from Specific Licences.

6.4 Prosecution:

- 6.4.1 Authorised officers may demand the name and address of a suspect under this Act, if the authorised officer has reasonable grounds he may arrest the offender forthwith.
- 6.4.2 Authorised officers may inspect and search any baggage, package, vehicle, vessel, tent, premises or property of any person. In the process he can seize and detain any item in contravention of this Act.
- 6.4.3 It is an offence to capture, kill or injure any immature fish, buy, sale, expose for sale or be in its possession. In addition, Statutory Instrument No. 15 of 1981 has prescribed immature sizes of Tilapia as being less than 11" and Nile perch being less than 18" total length.
- 6.4.4 It is an offence to possess any prohibited net or its size on any shores of any waters.

6.5 Powers of Authorised Officer:

- 6.5.1 Obtain statistics by weighing, measuring, checking any fish being in possession of any body.
- 6.5.2 Seize and destroy any net, long-line, basket, trap or appliance found on the shore or in water where use is prohibited.
- 6.5.3 Seize any fish which he reasonably believes to have been caught or to be possessed in contravention of this Act and shall be sold in such a manner as the authorised officer may think fit etc. etc.

7.0 GUIDELINES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY ROLES

- 7.1. Formulate and implement development plans and programmes which affect the community. Not withstanding this, the community shall always seek guidance from time to time from the appropriate authorities in pursuit of this cause.
- 7.2 Perform and deliver through democratic and credible organisational structures wherever every economically viable fisherfolk is e.g.. fishermen committees, fish traders' committees, fish processors' committees or fisherfolk committees.

- 7.3. The grass root-based voluntary fisherfolk institutions should endeavour to make their articles of association which are consistent with the existing codes of practice (to avoid parallel functions and obligations).
- 7.4 Such institutions may have to act as a one-stop-point in matters concerning mobilisation and sensitisation of fisherfolk.
- 7.5 Arbitrate in day-to-day skirmishes amongst the fisherfolk.
- 7.6 Conserve and protect the fisheries biodiversity.
- 7.7 Render the environment friendly all the time.
- 7.8 Provide fora for public exchange of ideas and resolutions e.g.. on safety of equipment, security of lives, modernisation of the fisheries industry, fisherfolk welfare etc.
- 7.9 Conceive money generating activities so as to alleviate poverty and disorderly amongst the fisherfolk (plan integrated multi-disciplinary rural developments)
- 7.10 Design voluntary scouting systems as a precautionary approach to the understanding of the natural resources common property rights.
- 7.11 Do any thing possible in public interest to promote and foster the fisheries industry e.g. in the field of education, health, sanitation and hygiene etc.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The role of the fisheries industry in the national macro-economy as well as the socio-economic aspects in rural development can not be over-emphasised. Let us all work in harmony to advance and promote the fisheries industry for now and more generations to come. This forum should go down in history as an initiation process of mandating community participation in fisheries regulation and control.

APPENDIX A

THE IMPACT OF SEINE NETS ON LAKES :- VICTORIA, KYOGA AND ALBERT.

1. ASSUMED ESTIMATIONS :

- 1.1 Numbers : 2000 seine nets on L. Kyoga
1000 seine nets on L. Victoria
600 seine nets on L. Albert.

Total: 3600

=====

- 1.2 Catch : Each seine net is estimated to catch mainly immature N. Perch/Tilapia.
- 1.3 1 kg of Catch : Estimated to contain 8 N. perch/Tilapia
- 1.4 Catch/S.net/day i.e. 24 hrs of operation :-

From L. Kyoga = 80 Kgs
From L. Victoria = 150 Kgs
From L. Albert = 100 Kgs

so, average is 110 Kgs/s.net.

2. COMPUTATION :

- 2.1 : Total Catch (wt) from 3600 S.nets/day = $3600 \times 110 \text{ kgs}$
= 396 Tonnes.
- 2.2. Total Catch (No.) from 3600 S.nets/day = $390 \times 8 \times 110$
= 3.2 millions
- 2.3. Monthly Catch (wt) from 3600 S.nets = 396 Tonnes X 30d
= 11,880 Tonnes
- 2.4. Monthly Catch (No.) from 3600 S.nets = $3.2 \text{m} \times 30 \text{d}$
= 90.6 millions
- 2.5. Annual Catch (wt.) from 3600 S.nets = 11,880 X 12m
= 142,560 Tonnes
- 2.6. Annual Catch (No.) from 3600 S.nets = $90.6 \times 12 \text{m}$
= 1087.2 millions

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The present fish consumption per capita of 12 Kgs could be increased by about 50% to 19 Kg if 142,560 Tonnes were to be wholly consumed in Uganda.
- 3.2. The immature fish exploitation is rated at 65% of the annual fish production, thus giving an indication that our lakes can produce well over 360,000 Tonnes/annum.
- 3.3. Suppose 20% of 1087.2 millions of N. perch/Tilapia were to survive mortality and reached maturity of 2 kgs, we would have 217.4 millions weighing 434,900 tonnes. This would make our annual fish production of 654,900 Tonnes and would entitle the 20 million Ugandans 4 meals of adequate fish per week.
- 3.4 The loss in economic terms of 434,900 tonnes would be :-
 - 3.4.1 Twenty authorised fish factories operating at 20 Tonnes of raw material/ day for 25 days/month would be estimated for 4.3 years or the loss can make the factories redundant for 4.3 years.
 - 3.4.2. Assuming that the cost price of 1 Tonne of fish is 700,000/= (fish factory price), the money lost without reaching the fishermen is Shs. 304.4 billion.
 - 3.4.3. Fish factories export 35% of the fillets of raw fish. Therefore, suppose 434,900 tonnes were availed to fish factories the yield would be 152,200 Tonnes. If 1 tonne of fillets fetches US \$ 5000, then this would earn the country US \$ 761 million.
- 3.5. So the estimated loss of revenue would have been :-
 $304.4 \text{ bn} + 761 \text{ bn} = \text{Shs. } 1065.4 \text{ bn.}$ This is equivalent to the annual national budget !!
so why not?
- 3.6. The above, have left out the impact of non-return traps and cast nets. Neither have they attempted to cost the bills for electricity, water, telephones; taxes, and salaries for employees lost.